OLDEST …

The Kentucky Derby is the oldest continuously held major sporting event in the United States. It has been staged every year at Churchill Downs without interruption since the inaugural running on May 17, 1875 – the first day of racing at the track then known as the Louisville Jockey Club.

The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, first staged on May 8, 1877, is the second oldest.

In addition to the Derby, the Kentucky Oaks and Clark have been staged every year at Churchill Downs without interruption since 1875.